

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2020 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evie Nguyen of Glendale, Arizona on winning the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

Evie's artwork, completed in charcoal and titled "Mutual," highlights the close relationship between humans and nature by showcasing herself with a Cactus Wren, Arizona's state bird.

Evie was a senior at Deer Valley High School when the artwork was completed. Her art is currently being displayed in the U.S. Capitol along with the other Congressional Art Competition winners from around the country.

Each spring, I am proud to host the Congressional Art Competition to showcase the incredibly talented students across Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

It is an honor to represent these promising young artists in Congress.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL W. McLAUGHLIN

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Michael McLaughlin and celebrate his retirement from the Cosumnes Fire Department. Chief McLaughlin started his fire service career in 1988 as a Reserve Firefighter with Contra Costa County Consolidated Fire Protection District. Throughout his fire service career, he has served for South Lake County and Lawrence Livermore before being promoted to Assistant Fire Chief. He then became a Division Chief for the Merced Fire Department before serving with Cosumnes CSD Fire Department which covers my district. During his time with the CSD Fire Department, he has held the title of Deputy Fire Chief before his promotion to his current role as Fire Chief.

Before Chief McLaughlin became a firefighter, he worked as a paramedic in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. He was also instrumental in the creation and growth of the South Lake County and Lawrence Livermore Paramedic Programs and has been a licensed Paramedic in California since 1990. Mr. McLaughlin has an Associate of Science Degree in Fire Technology from Yuba College, along with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Department Administration from Cogswell Polytechnical College.

I want to extend my congratulations and thank Chief McLaughlin for his hard work and

dedication to keeping California safe. Chief McLaughlin also assisted in the development of the HERO Act, legislation I introduced to provide first responders access to critical mental health resources which passed the House of Representatives this fall. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. McLaughlin for his work in the community and wish him the best in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAMIEN JEROME LOPEZ

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Damien Jerome Lopez, a brave first responder and firefighter from Globe, Arizona, who passed away last week after his battle with COVID-19.

For over two decades, Damien bravely served his community as a first responder and firefighter, retiring as a Captain in 2016.

This year, during the coronavirus pandemic, Lopez selflessly answered the call to care for his community and began working as a health care educator, assisting COVID-19 response efforts on the San Carlos Apache reservation.

A beloved community member, colleague, friend, and father, he was known for his dedication to helping all people. Damien was a generous man with a kind heart and a warm sense of humor. I know how much he meant to the people of Globe.

My family and I are keeping the Lopez family, Damien's friends and loved ones, and the entire Globe and San Carlos Apache communities in our prayers as we mourn his passing.

TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE PATRICK NEFF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Freddie "Fred" Patrick Neff, who passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Fred was a veteran, small business owner, a devoted family man, and he will be deeply missed.

Fred was born on March 17, 1936 in Denver, Colorado. After traveling throughout the West as a youth, Fred decided to join the Air Force. The Air Force took him to many military bases in the Far East as well as around the United States. While stationed at Clark Air Force Base he met his wife, Emerita Arrogante. Following a stint at March Air Force Base, Fred retired from the military after putting in his 30 years as a decorated veteran.

Retirement from the military allowed Fred to do many things in the second half of his life.

In his later years, he founded and served as president of two construction companies: Kadena Pacific and Cal American Construction Inc. According to his family, Fred loved dogs. Over the years, he was a proud dog dad to Herman, Nikko, Rambo, Ace, Ivan, Jude, Sadie and Rocco. Fred loved to hunt and fish, and enjoyed going out to dinner or out for a cup of coffee. Before he passed, Fred shared with his family that he had "no regrets" and truly his life's testimony reflected a full, well lived life.

In addition to his wife, Emerita, Fred is survived by his children: Susanna, Beverly, and Ray. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Neff family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Fred. Although Fred may be gone, the many contributions he made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.

CELEBRATING MR. KEN TUCKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ken Tucker on his retirement from Boeing.

An Alabama native and alumnus of the University of Alabama, Ken earned his bachelor's degree in American Studies and History in 1982 and his master's degree in Administrative Science in 1984. Ken began his career as Director of Governmental Relations for the University of Alabama in Huntsville. In 1988, Ken joined Boeing as a Public Affairs Specialist.

Ken held several positions at Boeing, including Community and Education Relations Specialist, Government and Community Affairs Manager, and State and Local Government Relations Manager. He concluded his distinguished career serving as Boeing's Director of State and Local Government Operations for the Southeast Region.

Ken contributed to the success of significant space and defense programs, including Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Space Launch System, International Space Station, Delta Launch Vehicles, Starliner Commercial Crew capsule, and Space Shuttle, to name a few.

Ken fostered workforce development through enhancing STEM education in the Southeast. Notably, he helped establish aerospace technician training programs at Calhoun Community College and at Nunez Community College.

Ken selflessly contributes to several professional and civic organizations throughout Alabama. He is an active member of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Business Council of Alabama, the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, and the Alabama Center for Productivity.

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